

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Palm Sunday

The Entrance of Our Lord Into Jerusalem

Venerable Mary of Egypt (522)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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Parish President - Matthew Andrews

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Weekly Schedule (Passion Week!)

Today: Bridegroom Matins Service
St. Nicholas Church (OCA) * Bethlehem, PA at 4pm!

*Service Schedule for Holy Week is noted under
Calendar of Events (page 7) of this bulletin!*

Sunday: April 8– PASCHA Services beginning at 8:30AM

Sunday: April 8 – Pascha Vespers approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the
Easter Baskets

Tuesday: April 10 – Bible Study at 6:30 in church basement.

No Services to be held at the parish during Bright Week.
Vespers next Saturday, April 14 at 5:00PM

Texts for the Liturgical Service

Troparion (Tone 1)

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion, / Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God. / Like the children with the palms of victory, / we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: / “Hosanna in the highest! // Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.”

Troparion (Tone 4)

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, / we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. / Now we praise Thee and sing:
“Hosanna in the highest! // Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord!”

Kontakion (Tone 6)

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, / carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing: // “Blessed is He Who cometh to recall Adam!”

Prokeimenon (Tone 4)

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

v. O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever!

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

v. O sing to the Lord a new song, for He hath done marvelous things!

Alleluia (3x's)

v. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia (3x's)

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always. Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following

God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself to us! / Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! /
Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, / singing: "Blessed is He that cometh in the Name
of the Lord, our Savior!"

Communion Hymn:

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!
Alleluia (3x's)

Announcements

A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guests who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

Announcements

ONCE AGAIN - "THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU"

We would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who helped with the Mission Service last Sunday. This includes those who cleaned the Church the day before (and some who cleaned during that week), those who prepared and cooked food and brought beverages, those who set up the basement for the meal, those who served the meal, those who prepared and printed the Mission Service booklets, those who greeted our guests, those who took pictures and Live Streamed the Mission Service, those who stayed to clean up the basement afterwards (FYI...great job cleaning up – last person walked out and locked up before 7:30pm), and most importantly, those who attended the Mission Service. It was truly a great success with approximately **96** people in attendance. (*Note: Yes, there were some faces unable to attend that normally would. If they had attend, the attendance would have been around 110).*

May God Grant You All Many Happy, Healthy, and Blessed Years!

Anniversary wishes...

On March 28, 2017, it was with great joy that Father Mark was received into the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania and officially assigned by Archbishop Mark as the Rector of this parish. The previous 18 months Father Mark was officially "on loan" from the Diocese of Washington under the omophorion of His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON.

We continue to pray that the Lord give you and Matushka Jan a happy and healthy life as you continue to minister your faithful flock here at Holy Assumption.

May God Grant You Many Happy, Healthy, and Blessed Years!

Attendance: Sixth Week of Great Lent Services

Sunday Mission Service (3/25) = **96** attended the service hosted by our parish!

Wednesday (3/28) – Presanctified Liturgy = 12

Friday (3/30) – Vespers for Lazarus Service = 14

Saturday (3/31) – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy = 14

Saturday (3/31) – Vespers for Palm Sunday = 15

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Family and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson
Cynthia Ferguson, Marc, Patricia, Anastasia, Alexander, Catherine, Albert, Kenneth offered by Debra Kavalkovich
Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Melanie Albrecht
Pellack Family offered by Peggy Walker

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Michael and Anna Zuzulock (New Jersey) offered by Joseph Rabik
Betty Sapp offered by Pellack Family
Emelie Albrecht, Carmen Del Quatro, Vito Maturo, Frank, Joseph, William offered by Debra Kavalkovich

May Their Memories Be Eternal

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Please remember in your prayers:

Grace Corba; Ronald Kavalkovich (on his continuous recovery); Margaret Pellack; Helen Wanenchak; Father Vincent Saverino (retired); Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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Lena Helen will be hosting an Open House next Sunday, April 8, after the Pascha Services. All parishioners are invited to attend. Bring your blessed Easter baskets and share in the food and fellowship with one another as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Location: 2065 East York Street * Philadelphia, PA
Mobile #: 601.568.2153

Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!

Announcements (cont.)

Coffee Hour / Cleaning and Epistle / Hours Reading Schedule.

We now have an established full rotating schedule for the Coffee Hour & Cleaning, and the Hours & Epistle Readings. The Reading schedule sheets will be posted quarterly on the bulletin board in the church basement. The Coffee Hour/Cleaning schedule is in a binder located on the display case.

Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon. In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Icon Fund (2016-18)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

Note: if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

Cash Flow Activity (March)

	<u>Week of Mar 19 to Mar 25</u>	<u>March Month-to-date</u>
Attendance:	38	40 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 1,955.69	\$ 8,509.69
Funds Out:	\$ 1,121.31	\$ 6,486.37
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 834.38	\$ 2,023.32

Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!

Shop Rite Gift Cards: If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

Calendar of Events

1st Sunday of each month – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
2nd Tuesday of each month – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
2nd Sunday of each month – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
3rd Sunday of each month – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
4th Sunday of each month – Church Life Discussion Class after Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, April 1 – Bridegroom Matins Service at 4:00pm.

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church (OCA)
980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | Phone #610.867.0402
Website: <http://www.stnicholasoca.org>

HOLY WEEK Service Schedule – April 2nd to April 8th

Monday, April 2 – Bridegroom Matins beginning at 6:30PM
Tuesday, April 3 – Bridegroom Matins beginning at 6:30PM *(with Archbishop Mark)*
Wednesday, April 4 – Bridegroom Matins with Holy Unction beginning at 6:30PM
*This service will be held at St Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church: 1855 Middletown Road * Gradyville, PA 19039 with Archbishop Mark presiding*

Thursday, April 5 – Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil beginning at 10:00AM
Thursday, April 5 – Friday Matins with reading of the 12 Passion Gospels at 6:00PM
Friday, April 6 – Holy Friday Vespers beginning at 4:00PM
Friday, April 6 – Matins (with Procession & Reading of Ezekiel) beginning at 6:30PM
Saturday, April 7 – Holy Saturday-Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great (with all 15 Readings) beginning at 10:00AM

Sunday, April 8 – Pascha Service (Procession, Matins & Divine Liturgy) beginning at 8:30AM
Sunday, April 8 – Pascha Vespers approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets

No Services to be held at the parish during Bright Week. Vespers on Saturday at 5PM

PASCHA FLOWERS. TODAY is the last day we are collecting for Pascha (Easter) flowers. There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Pascha flower donations. Please give the envelopes to a member of the parish council for your offering. Thank You!

Cleaning Teams: Today (Apr 1): Saint Agatha (Nina Patterson, Natalie Patterson, Michael Spack). Next Week (Apr 8): Saint Elizabeth (Sandra Hourahan (if possible, Sam), Matushka Jan, and David Pellack.



Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) [April 1st]

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in an earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

Our Pledge

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!"

Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:

... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor